

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: REACTION TO MUSLIM PEACE PROPOSAL

REFS: A. MANILA 20222 B. MANILA 20205 C. WENZEL-FLECK  
TELECON, DEC. 30

1. PETER SCHAEFER AND DR. CRAIG OLSON OF DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES INCORPORATED CALLED ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR FLECK DECEMBER 30. SCHAEFER EXPOUNDED ON HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MUSLIM MODERATES IN JIDDA AND WITH GOP OFFICIALS IN THE PHILIPPINES ALONG LINES REPORTED REF B, WITH FOLLOWING EMBELLISHMENTS.

2. HE REITERATED PROPOSAL THAT USG OFFICIALLY INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF BMLO BY SUBMITTING WRITTEN STATEMENT TO PRINCE SAUD THAT USG RECOGNIZES BMLO AS THE ORGANIZATION LEGITIMATELY REPRESENTING PHILIPPINE MUSLIMS. SCHAEFER REFERRED TO THIS AS "DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION" OF BMLO.

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FLECK REPLIED THAT SUCH A STEP WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION; USG WAS NOT GOING TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS SITUATION OR TAKE PUBLIC STAND REGARDING LEGITIMACY OF RIVAL MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS.

3. SCHAEFER'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT BMLO LEADERS WITH WHOM HE

IS IN TOUCH (PENDATUN, LUCMAN, SALAMAT, ETC.) ARE DEVOUT MUSLIMS WHO ABHOR COMMUNISM AND ARE CONVINCED THAT NUR MISUARI IS COMMUNIST WHO HAS SOLD OUT TO THE RUSSIANS. LUCMAN TOLD SCHAEFER THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED TWICE SOMETIME AGO BY A RUSSIAN COUPLE POSING AS WRITERS WHO WERE REALLY KGB AGENTS. FIRST APPROACH HAD BEEN IN MARAWI CITY AND SECOND IN SINGAPORE. ON BOTH OCCASIONS COUPLE HAD PROMISED SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIMS IN EX-CHANGE FOR NAVAL FACILITIES FOR RUSSIAN FLEET IN MINDANAO ONCE MNLF IN POWER. LUCMAN AND OTHERS TOLD SCHAEFER THEY PREFERRED CONTINUATION OF MARCOS RULE TO COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. SCHAEFER ADDED THAT ATTITUDE OF SAUDIS HE HAD TALKED TO WAS THAT THEY WERE GETTING TIRED OF BOTH MISUARI AND MARCOS. HE SAID BMLO LEADERS WERE SERIOUSLY PONDERING HOW TO DISPOSE OF MISUARI AND THAT ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION IS ASSASSINATION.

4. SCHAEFER SAID BMLO LEADERS ARE SERIOUSLY SEEKING WAYS OF OPENING DIALOGUE WITH MARCOS. THEY WANT PEACE BUT IF MARCOS IS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE OR SEEKS TO PROLONG HOSTILITIES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN EXCUSE FOR KEEPING MARTIAL LAW AS MEANS OF RETAINING HIS PERSONAL POWER, THEY ARE PREPARED TO RESUME FIGHTING AND TO ESCALATE SCALE OF CONFLICT TO INCLUDE URBAN TERRORISM THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES. THEY ALSO TOLD SCHAEFER THEY HAD ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH RAUL MANGLAPUS.

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5. SCHAEFER SAID HE HAD TOLD BMLO LEADERS THAT MANGLAPUS SEEKS TO OUST MARCOS AND THAT THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH HIM WAS NOT IN THEIR OWN BEST INTEREST. THEY SHOULD TERMINATE THEIR CONTACTS WITH MANGLAPUS AND SEEK TO CONVINCE MARCOS THAT MAKING PEACE IN THE SOUTH IS IN HIS OWN BEST INTEREST AS WELL AS THEIRS. SCHAEFER ASKED WHETHER USG WOULD OBJECT TO LUCMAN AND OTHERS COMING TO UNITED STATES FOR MEETING WITH COLONEL ANDAYA OR OTHER GOP REPRESENTATIVES. FLECK REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY OB-JECTION AS FAR AS POLICY WAS CONCERNED BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WERE PERSONALLY TECHNICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR VISAS. PRESUMABLY THEY WOULD BE JUST AS ELIGIBLE FOR VISAS AS PENDATUN BUT ANY OFFICIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION. SCHAEFER REPLIED THAT HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PAY THEIR OWN EXPENSES.

6. SCHAEFER SAID HE FELT THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO THE USG TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN APPROACHING THE GOP TO BRING THE TWO PARTIES TOGETHER. HE ASKED WHAT THE USG REACTION WOULD BE TO A REQUEST FROM ANDAYA OR

ADMIRAL ESPALDON FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING  
A MEETING IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. FLECK REPLIED THAT THE USG HAD ALREADY INFORMED PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS THAT THE USG HAD NO DESIRE OR INTENTION OF INJECTING ITSELF INTO THIS INTERNAL PROBLEM OF THE GOP. HE SAID THE USG INTENDED TO TAKE NO INITIATIVE IN THE MATTER. IF AN APPROACH WERE MADE BY GOP OFFICIALS, HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO TRY TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THAT APPROACH REFLECTED THE ACTUAL DESIRES AND INTENTIONS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS. IF MARCOS WISHED TO GO THAT ROUTE, THE USG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO BE HELPFUL.

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8. SCHAEFER SAID HE FELT USG HAD MORAL RESPONSIBILITY STEMMING FROM COLONIAL OVERSEERSHIP OF PHILIPPINES TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY SINCE USG PROVIDES WEAPONS TO GOP WHICH ARE BEING USED AGAINST MUSLIMS THERE. HE SAID HE FELT THIS WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AS THOSE WHICH USG HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH GOP. OLSON SAID HE FELT THAT OPPORTUNITY NOW CONFRONTING USG IN PHILIPPINES WAS SIMILAR TO OPPORTUNITIES USG HAD FAILED TO SEIZE OR HAD BOTCHED IN MIDDLE EAST AND INDOCHINA 30 YEARS AGO. THE TIME IS RIPE FOR USG TO LEARN FROM PAST MISTAKES AND USE SOME DIPLOMATIC INFLUENCE ON GOP. OTHERWISE, HE CONTINUED, HOSTILITIES WILL FLARE UP AGAIN IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, U.S. BASES WILL BE THREATENED AND ENTIRE U.S. POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL BE JEOPARDIZED.

9. OLSON ASKED WHAT ADVICE USG WOULD GIVE TO DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES. HE SAID THEY HAD PURSUED THIS MISSION NOT FOR PERSONAL GLORY BUT TO ENABLE THEIR COMPANY TO MAKE MONEY. IF SITUATION DID NOT SHOW SIGNS OF IMPROVING, DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WOULD PROBABLY SUSPEND OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. FLECK REPLIED THAT COMPANY SHOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH GOP OFFICIALS IN THE AREA, AS SCHAEFER ALREADY SEEMED TO BE DOING WITH ANDAYA AND ESPALDON, AND SHOULD SEEK TO CONVINCE THEM THAT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WAS IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS, AS WELL AS IN INTEREST OF MUSLIMS, GOP, AND DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES. SCHAEFER REMARKED THAT HE WAS APPREHENSIVE THAT A CLIQUE WITHIN THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES WANTED TO CONTINUE THE HOSTILITIES INDEFINITELY FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES BUT HE BELIEVED THAT ADMIRAL ESPALDON WAS A "DOVE" IN THIS REGARD.

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10. SCHAEFER STATED HE HAD LEARNED THAT ALEX MELCHOR WAS CURRENTLY IN JIDDA AND THAT HE HAD ADVISED LUCMAN TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MELCHOR. FLECK STATED THAT IN THIS SITUATION MELCHOR APPEARED TO BE A KEY INDIVIDUAL, THAT HE HAS THE EAR OF MARCOS, AND THAT SCHAEFER SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM. FLECK CLOSED SESSION BY TELLING SCHAEFER AND OLSON THAT EMBASSY MANILA WOULD BE INFORMED OF THIS CONVERSATION AND WOULD BE ASKED TO REITERATE TO GOP OFFICIALS PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION THAT USG DOES NOT WISH TO INTERFERE OR TO INJECT ITSELF INTO GOP-MUSLIM RELATIONS BUT IS PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL, IF POSSIBLE. SCHAEFER AND OLSON PROMISED TO REMAIN IN TOUCH.

11. FOR MANILA. DEPARTMENT SHARES YOUR SKEPTICISM REGARDING SCHAEFER'S MUSLIM CONTACTS AND EXTENT OF THEIR INFLUENCE AND POWER BASE IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT GOP OFFICIALS WITH WHOM YOU HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER UNDERSTAND USG POSITION, AS STATED ABOVE.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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